

Bees and farms need each other.

It's that simple.

Bees need the habitat and food found on North Carolina's rich agricultural lands. Farmers need the pollination services provided by these avid pollinators to grow up to a third of the crops that we produce.

To provide a safe and healthy environment for these important agricultural workers, beekeepers and farmers need to open up lines of communication that will allow all parties to make informed decisions that will protect and serve bees and other pollinators.

Working together, we can create a healthier environment for pollinators and help keep agriculture North Carolina's No. 1 industry.

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NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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Know *Your Farmer*

Communication Is Key



FOR BEEKEEPERS

Make Connections To Protect Pollinators

The best way to ensure protection of honeybees in regions where pesticides are used is to ensure effective communication between beekeepers and farmers.

Fostering strong communication is the basis of a successful relationship.

Beekeepers and farmers with operations in close proximity are encouraged to have an open dialogue and should know one another's name and pertinent contact information.



Information For Beekeepers

Hive Placement

Before placing hives on farms, farmers and beekeepers should discuss proper placement on the farm to ensure the safest and most convenient location for the hives.

Points to consider:

- Farm equipment hazards
- Worker proximity to hives
- Natural barriers to mitigate exposure to pesticides and weather
- Hive opening away from workers and fields
- Proximity to pesticide application and mixing/loading sites

Do not place hives or apiaries in areas used to grow crops that require heavy and frequent use of insecticides.

Hive Identification

Place weather-proof placards on a prominent hive within the apiary that clearly shows the owner's name and emergency contact information. The placard should be visible from a distance.

Bee Awareness Zones

North Carolina is currently considering two methods to identify "Bee Awareness Zones," areas where bees are located — flagging and geo-locating apiaries.

A flag, such as the Mississippi "Bee Aware" flag, may be beneficial for marking apiaries that are near adjacent fields. You can place a flag in a location that is easily visible to farmers operating ground equipment or by aerial applicators. The flag will serve as a constant reminder that bees are in the vicinity and that care and/or notification should be taken with insecticide applications. Beekeepers are also encouraged to provide GPS locations of their apiaries to local farmers and commercial applicators (aerial & ground) who may be applying

insecticides in the area to show the exact location. There may be a secured website developed for this information that could be viewed by all applicators in the area. Apiary sites may be entered online or by other means.

Registered Apiaries

Register your hives with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Plant Industry Division. Growers who employ aerial applicators to apply pesticides that are toxic to bees are required to notify beekeepers of their intent to spray if applied within one-half mile of a registered apiary. Registering ensures that you will be notified. For more information, go to www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry/plant/apiary.

Discuss Crop Protection Plans

Ask farmers in your area about their crop protection plans. Communicate your knowledge and understanding of the attractiveness of the crop(s) they produce to honeybees. Develop a plan to protect bees from pesticides during critical crop production cycles when application of products that may be harmful to bees are necessary.

Protect Hives

Take steps to protect hives and supplemental food and water sources from drift during pesticide applications. When pesticides known to be toxic to bees are being applied near your hives, move, cover or otherwise protect hives during treatment.

Report Incidents

If you suspect your bees have been exposed to pesticides, immediately call the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Pesticide Section at 919-733-3556 or Plant Protection's Apiary Services at 919-707-3753.